





## AGRICULTURAL.

## Girls Who Put Up Seeds.

Unless it be a lightning-seed sower, or a boy or girl peddling for a wage, no human being in this town would put up seeds faster than the girls putting up seed packets in the wholesale flower houses at this time of year.

"How many of those can you fill a day?" was asked of a girl manipulating onion and quarter-onion and quarter-pound packages of seed in a downtown store.

"Fifty-eight a minute," came the prompt answer, with never a pause in the dipping and measuring and pouring in, and before the visitor could even take in the idea of how many such packets in an hour, the little flowered paper squares, all sealed and ready for shipment, had mounted up in sufficient quantities to make a newly emptied basket necessary to hold them.

"I have been filling seed packets here for six years," said the expert later, when a momentary lull made conversation possible. "Oh, of course, when I first came I couldn't begin to do what I can now. My fingers couldn't move fast enough, and these little packages seemed too small to take hold of easily, but with a little practice I got on better, and after a time, in a season or two, I could turn round sharp and be of use."

By three of us working together, one opening the bag, one filling, and one sealing, we can turn out a quantity. A late cold April like this makes all the rush work come at once, and the firm takes on new girls to help, but experience and practice are needed in the seed business, and in working with high-grade seeds or with the mixed papers a filler has to be exact and trustworthy or she would do damage.

"What are the most sensitive seeds we work with? Petunias, the fancy, newly created kind, and calceolarias. The very smallest measures are used for these seeds, and it's something like working with a fine needle or poking up very small beads for paracenteries. You see, this is the dipper used, and she held up a little, long-handled metal ladle, the spoon part of which would not hold more than a good sized drop of water or a part of a small pea.

"The finest petunia seed is worth \$35 an ounce," the seed measurer went on, "and part of an ounce would furnish ever so many plants, so we put up very small quantities, and the seed is as light and fine as chaff or down, so it must be worked with very carefully to avoid waste. Certain extra grades of calceolarias and petunias seed come as high as \$150 an ounce. I know that \$400 a pound for petunias sounds like a fair tale, but the greatest pains are taken to rear those plants. Of course nobody ever buys a whole pound, so the proportionate value is great. In vegetable seeds the most expensive that we have to consider is the cauliflower. That is worth \$10 a pound and is put up in very small quantities. The most of the vegetable seed, however, are easy to work with, being only five and 10 cents an ounce. Corn and peas and beans are particularly behindhand this year."

There are hundreds of girls employed in the wholesale seed houses. Most of them are taken on in November and work steadily until February, but the spring season, along about May, invariably calls for a fresh relay of workers, and after the first stock of seed ready-to-sell seed packets has been depleted, the girls and all hands have to work to the utmost to get ready a new supply. People who have planted their seeds and had them fail to come up send for duplicate assortments, and those who had perhaps no idea of planting at all are moved to experiment with flowers and vegetables when the first warm days come, and there is a feeling for outdoor occupation. For this reason, although the regulation seed orders are all filled and provided for during the winter season, the demand is never to be calculated definitely, and every large firm has to turn in and put up a new supply when the planting season is actually on.

Most of the girls seed workers work under supervision, and are valued only because they are small fingered and alert, and can do the delicate work more expeditiously than men. Those who, like the 58-packages-a-minute expert, have learned the business, and are not only quick, but exact and reliable, are kept on the payroll all the year, and regarded as valuable adjuncts to the business. A leading seed house takes on from 60 to 100 girls in the spring (rush season), and keeps two dozen or so employed regularly. The girl seed worker is seldom a wage earner from one position, because there is no help for it, as is the case with the factory girl, the girl seamstress, or the larger proportion of shop girls.

The seed business is too irregular to be considered as a legitimate trade to be depended upon for living wages, and so the seed girls are drawn from those having homes and parents to support them, but who work for pin money and because the business is light, clean and pleasant, and the pay in fair proportion to the work. Most of the girls live out of town in suburban homes, near Jersey City and Brooklyn, and a man who engages batch after batch of them says that the first-Americans seem to succeed best and stick to the business longest. Working among the seeds and becoming familiar with the nature and needs of plants and flowers generally leads the workers to experiment on their own account with growing things in their home plots, and this makes them additionally valuable to the business.

"Some of our girls have remarkable memories and can carry more seed knowledge in their heads for use, off hand, than any man in the trade," said a seed store proprietor who had been extolling his woman head worker. "I can recall how many inches across a flower is when grown from a certain grade of seed, know all about the shades and markings of the blossoms, and whether this one is velvety and dark or streaked and light or mottled; what seeds give the best results, whether this variety or the other was best liked by customers, and a lot of such facts that a man would use a notebook to keep track of. No woman is really at the head of or in the most responsible position in any large seed house that I know of. The florists and farmers seem to like best to treat with men regarding their business, and there is a feeling in the trade that men are more thorough and well grounded in the florist's knowledge, and are the natural leaders, but there are women getting good salaries and doing good work everywhere in this line, and several that I know of would be easily missed if they should give up."

"Women make excellent flower salesmen, if I may put it that way. If a person comes in not knowing exactly what he wants the saleswoman will make a dozen taking suggestions that a man would not think of, and she's apt at keeping the run of the trade and remembering instances where such and such a plant was sold to a certain person and gave satisfaction. The girl who has experimented on a little home garden of her own can give valuable hints to amateur, and several of our girl workers have made up amateur and city garden collections of seeds from their own taste and knowledge that were practical and proved good sellers."

In the big seed and flower supply houses in downtown New York at this season, some hints of husbandry and tillage and the things that the country is most concerned with appear to have got down under the elevated roads and into the wholesale district. Trowels and light-handed rakes, and hose, watering pots, pruning shears and flower scissors are put out on the pavement in juxtaposition to hanging baskets, boxes of newly started seeds, tomato seeds, tomato and cabbage plants all ready to be transplanted, royal foliage plants and boxes of hydrangeas, blooming tulips, sweet peas and the like. All have the trade symbol and prices mark uppermost, but the greenness is there, and the scent of newly turned-up earth and some faint intimation of what is going on in gardens and fields and vegetable patches beyond the town's limits.

The seed packet girl has a nice talk with the florist's man, who has come in for a duplicate package of poppies, or primulas, or heartsease, and she sells the little boy from down Stan-ton-street way a packet of mignonette seed for his fire escape garden, and gets together a good assortment of hardy herbs for the vegetable woman whose farm wagon waits outside, and who has sent her little girl in to do the errand. "Sweet marjoram, lavender and sage," she selects, with old-fashioned hoarhound and hyssop for a garden border, and wormwood to fill out the package.—New York Sun.

## Quack Grass in Sandy Soil.

When quack grass once gets possession of sandy soil containing little vegetable matter, it is nearly impossible to eradicate it. The roots of quack run much deeper in sand than in heavier land, and they are more persistent in living. If you cover quack leaves with sand, it does not smother as it would under the same bulk of the more compact clay. It is impossible to plow sandy land deep enough, except by having one plow follow another, to turn the quack grass roots to the surface. In heavier land nearly all the horizontal roots are found at about the usual depth of plowing, and letting the plow down an inch deeper will bring most of them to the surface, where they may be raked up and thrown on hot fires. But if this were to be done on sandy land it would reduce the soil to sterility. It is better to have a growth of quack grass on sandy soil than to have nothing. If kept closely pastured quack grass is sweet, tender and nutritious. If allowed to grow large the plant becomes less palatable, and some of the plants will throw up seed stalks. The soybean will, however, keep these down. Some farmers who have sandy land claim that for them quack grass is a good thing. It prevents them from raising more profitable crops where it grows, and we always had a suspicion that their liking for quack grass was necessarily rather than choice. Besides, the pest is always spreading into places where not even the farmer on sandy land would have it if he could help it.

## Tillage and Productivity.

There is nothing like good tillage to bring out the full productivity of the soil. This fact should never be lost sight of, although in the discussions of fertilizers all the importance is generally attached to the soil, however rich, can do a little of its duty unless good, intelligent tillage is given to it each season. Cultivation must begin early and continue late. The more the soil can be turned over and pulverized the more will its productivity be increased. Tillage for the sake of improving the soil should be the motto more than cultivation to keep down the weeds. The latter is often the extent to which many farmers go, for when the weeds are killed they consider their duty done.

A recent examination of the soils showed that there were vast quantities of plant food in them that their owners had never dreamed of. They had been idly fertilizing for years, as they were classed them as medium soils, neither very good nor very bad. Some of these soils were remarkably rich in nitrogen and potash, and yet they did not begin to yield the results obtained from soils dressed with these commercial fertilizers. What was the difference? Simply that the potash and nitrogen in the soil were not in an immediately available condition, while in the commercial fertilizers they were. The soil needed good tillage to develop the potash

## "Better Good Afar Off

## Than Evil at Hand."

If the "evil at hand" is a disordered condition of the blood, the "good" is not "afar off." Hood's Sarsaparilla is a natural blood purifier, and within the possibilities of everyone. It cures scrofula, salt rheum and every other form of blood disease.

It relieves dyspeptic troubles and kidney and liver difficulties. Its use has saved thousands of lives and made people better able to stand the cares and worries of life.

**Eruptions.**—"I spent hundreds of dollars to cure eruptions on my right leg with out permanent good. Six bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla completely cured me. I am very grateful." HERMAN BARTLETT, 462 Ninth Ave., New York City.

**Scrofula Sore.**—"Enlargement of the arm bone, with a bunch, proved to be scrofula. The sore discharged disagreeably. Hood's Sarsaparilla healed it and left no sound as a nut." CAPT. WM. S. BARKER, Box 8, Wilson, N. H.

**Rheumatism.**—"Five bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla cured my inflammatory rheumatism, and I can now do my own house work." MRS. H. CROWNSHIELD, 504 Prospect Street, Falmouth, Ohio.

**Catarrh.**—"I had dyspepsia and took Hood's Sarsaparilla for it and found benefit, relieving that by persistent use it cured the catarrh of 15 years standing. We are never without Hood's." MRS. M. D. WILAND, Box 517, Joplin, Mo.

**All Cures.**—"Had no appetite or strength, could not sleep or get rested, was completely run down. Two bottles Hood's Sarsaparilla cured the tired feeling and I do my own work." MRS. A. DICK, Millville, N. J.

**Catarrh.**—"I was so low with catarrh that I could not get around the house. Tricarbolic acid relieved me, but Hood's Sarsaparilla was the last. It cured me." MRS. CHARLES RUMBLE, 335 Oak Lane, York, Pa.

**The Blood.**—"Was tired out, had no appetite until I took Hood's Sarsaparilla. It built me right up and I can eat heartily." ERMA M. HAGER, Athol, Mass.

**Hood's Sarsaparilla**  
Never Disappoints

Hood's Pills cure liver (not non-liver) and only cathartics to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla



ROUGH-COATED COLLIE DOG.

and nitrogen so the plants could immediately take them up.

That is about the case with all of our soils. They need cultivation to bring out their possibilities, and to make the potash and nitrogen immediately available. More than this, good cultivation improves the mechanical conditions of the soil so that it performs its functions much better. Most soils are not in a condition naturally for our fine cultivated plants to thrive in, and they need good treatment to prepare them as seed beds. Many are so thick that there is no drainage, and the plants suffocate or drown in them. Good cultivation breaks up the soil, pulverizes it and enables the water to percolate properly through it to the subsoil. Thus good tillage is essential to successful farming, and is as important to the soil itself as to the plants.

New Hampshire.

## Ensilage and Dry Fodder.

Those who raise ensilage feed herds invariably have a decided advantage over the farmer who confines his attention entirely to dry fodder and grain. But on the other hand, there are farmers who do not make the ensilage a success because of lack of proper study of economy in feeding or generally poor management of the whole dairy farm. The comparison of such a man with a first-class dairyman who believed in dry fodder and grain is not fair. There are plenty of good farmers today making a success with herds that are fed entirely on dry fodder, corn meal, bran and similar grains. They are too conservative to take up the silo, or they are willing to try well enough alone. But because they make a success in their present work it does not follow that they would not make even more profits by adopting the silo. Let even progressive farmers give the silo all the care and attention they give to their present system of feeding, and if they fail they might be justified in casting discredit upon the silo.

It is practical to raise all the ensilage needed for feeding a dairy herd of all sizes, and then if the silo is properly filled the results will be more than satisfactory. We are certainly coming to the time when every dairy farm of 20 or more cows will have its silo, and it will be an exception to the rule not to find one on a farm. It is on a par with our present systems of cold storage for preserving meat, and the only difference is that the silo is not only adds to the pleasures of eating, but it improves the health of the nation to have green things right through the winter and summer months. We should in the same way consider the cows on whose health and good flow of milk so many of us are dependent. Winter dairying can never be carried on as of old until the silo is built and filled. Now is the time to consider and prepare for next winter if the herd is expected to give the results desired. There is no easier way to increase the winter supply of milk than to have and feed plenty of ensilage. E. P. SMITH.

## Dairy Notes.

It has been proven that milk will keep sweet and pure in sterilized cans nearly twice as long as in cans washed in the ordinary way, and the New Jersey Experiment Station gives directions for cleansing the can so as to be free from germs. It must be scrubbed with a stiff brush, either hand or power, then scalded with water that is actually boiling, or turned over a steam jet with a pressure of 15 to 20 pounds. No bacteria can resist this steam, although some will endure a temperature of 200°. After cooling down or steaming keep the cans bottom up, ward, as bacterial germs tend to go downward rather than upward. A similar treatment of all utensils used in handling milk and cream would do much to insure the purity and good flavor of the dairy products.

Prof. D. H. Os of Kansas, a well-known authority upon dairy matters, sends us the results of an experiment lately made there, showing another important reason for milking cows clean beside the well-known fact that cows not milked clean will be apt to dry up in short order.

Five cows that were giving a fair quantity of milk were selected, and their milk collected in half-pint bottles, each test contributing a fair share to the contents of each bottle. These were then tested by the Babcock test, and the results showed a gradual, although not entirely uniform, increase in the per cent of fat from the beginning to the last of the milking, except with the last two samples drawn from each cow. Here the percentage of fat took a sudden leap. One cow showed at first only two-tenths of one per cent. fat in the first milk and 66 per cent. in the stripplings. Another from six-tenths to 7.3, a third from eight-tenths to 7.5, and the other two varied less. In the first case the stripplings were worth 33 times as much for fat contents as

the first milk, and in the second case 15 times as much. The two which showed the least variation averaged over four times as much fat in the last milk as in the first.

This shows another fact. Those who follow the plan we suggested some time ago in these dairy notes, of milking out a full stream from each test, to remove any bacterial germs that might be in the milk passage, or in dust collected near its mouth, and not using that milk with the other, would not lose much butter fat by so doing.

A Minnesota paper says that the hand separator is rapidly growing in favor in that State, and the number in use is rapidly increasing. It is not those who are too far from the creamery to patronize it who are investing most in separators, but many of the larger dairies near the creameries are using them, and going into the manufacture of butter at home. As a result there is an amount of first-class dairy butter being offered there which is a genuine surprise to those who thought that private dairying was a thing of the past, or confined only to the creamery to patronize it who are investing most in separators, but many of the larger dairies near the creameries are using them, and going into the manufacture of butter at home. 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## THE HORSE.

## A New Englander's First Panther.

Every prominent horseman in New England who has attended race meetings regularly during the past few years knows the New Hampshire horseman, A. Scott Locke, who has often served in the capacity of judge. Mr. Locke owns quite an extensive cattle ranch in Texas. His son, A. Scott Locke, Jr., who has just graduated from a medical school, has been spending a few weeks in the Lone Star State, and according to the following, slipped from the Concord Monitor, has had at least one exciting experience recently:

A hunting party, consisting of three jolly cowboys and myself, recently started on a two days trip, the account of which will be more fully appreciated by the readers of the Monitor if I give a brief description of the country into which we went to find large game. The horses, mules and dogs are also worthy of mention. I would say to those who may think this a "Texas yarn" that it is the unexaggerated truth, and that the writer is totally unable to do justice to what he experienced upon this occasion. By request, I use only the first names of those who were present. Bob is acknowledged the roughest and most daring rider in the mountains west of the Pecos River. Alf is the boss of a good-sized cattle ranch. Walt is his "broncho-buster," and a typical "Texan cow boy." Myself, a tenderfoot, green from the crowded streets of an Eastern city, not many miles from Boston. We were mounted upon good, strong, sure-footed cow ponies, named Fox, War Pony, Snake and Red Bird. Our pack mules, Hildy and Buck, figure in a 30-minute, side-splitting farce, which any one could have enjoyed but ourselves, to whom it looked more like a "tragedy of the deepest dye" until the curtain came down on the last act. The hounds, Moose, Lounds, Brandy, Crowder, Colly, Mexico, Blue and others, were well trained and experienced.

Our route lay toward Livermore Mountain, one of the Davis range, which is the highest peak in Texas, being over 8000 feet above sea level. Soon canons, with walls of solid rock, perpendicular for hundreds of feet, surrounded us. It is safe to say that no white man ever trod portions of the country we went over the following day. Signs of bear, deer and panther were plenty, and it was with difficulty that we restrained the dogs until we had penetrated into this wilderness as far as we wished. I saw a "natural bridge" of solid rock, 30 feet in width and 30 feet high, with a span of 25 feet, a sight, on account of its position in a gap, to stir the admiration of the most indifferent.

The Indians, in places along the smooth, upright bowlders, had painted figures of men, pierced through the heart with arrows, and peculiar tails of men and game they had killed, the several colors, red, white, blue, pink and yellow, meaning a different kind of animal. This region was once a favorite resort of the dreaded Apaches, and here it was they made their last stand and hardest fight, against the ever-advancing "pale faces." Wild ten-year-old unbroken cattle that could outrun the fastest cow pony over those almost impassable elevations started like deer out of the brush as we passed. Fish, a curiosity in this section, were seen in the creek. It was astonishing to see the height bears could reach and tear the bark off the trees. In many cases they stood on the ground and damaged trees as high as eight feet. After a 30-mile ride, a camp was decided upon, and there we "staked" our horses, tied up the dogs and sought a place to spread blankets that was free from sticks, stones and prickly pear. After feeding the animals and partaking of "sneak" ourselves, we all assembled about a dead pine, which had been set on fire, and gave a suitable blasé for such an occasion. The "yarns" spun and "lies" swapped that evening would have done credit to a war veteran; yet we were early to "make do," and decided to be off at daybreak. Never did I sleep more soundly than that night, in a wild and lonely canon, where the stillness was frequently broken by screeches of owls, yelps of wolves and the baby-like cries of panthers from the neighboring bluffs.

"Chuck" was eaten, bedding rolled and hoisted into trees, mules hobbled, horses saddled, and we were on our way the next morning as soon as it was light enough to follow the dogs. The hounds were taught to follow behind, except the two "leaders" of the pack, Lounds and Moose, which went on ahead, searching for a fresh trail. If this pack started on a particular track they would cross deer, bear and wolf trails, even pass close by these animals, without turning from their first quest. Any of the game could be "run" by these dogs.

"Old Lounds has opened," shouted Rob, and away went the hounds, making a noise such as only people who have enjoyed this kind of sport can appreciate.

"It's a sure panther," answered Alf, who had seen its tracks, and on we rode a couple of miles, where the dogs were busy unraveling a lot of trails.

"Easy, boys; give 'em time," said Walt. "There, Moose has straightened her out again," and on we flew.

"Dog gone if I ever did see so many panther signs in one bunch afore, and the way those dogs are running they must be blamed fast," exclaimed Rob.

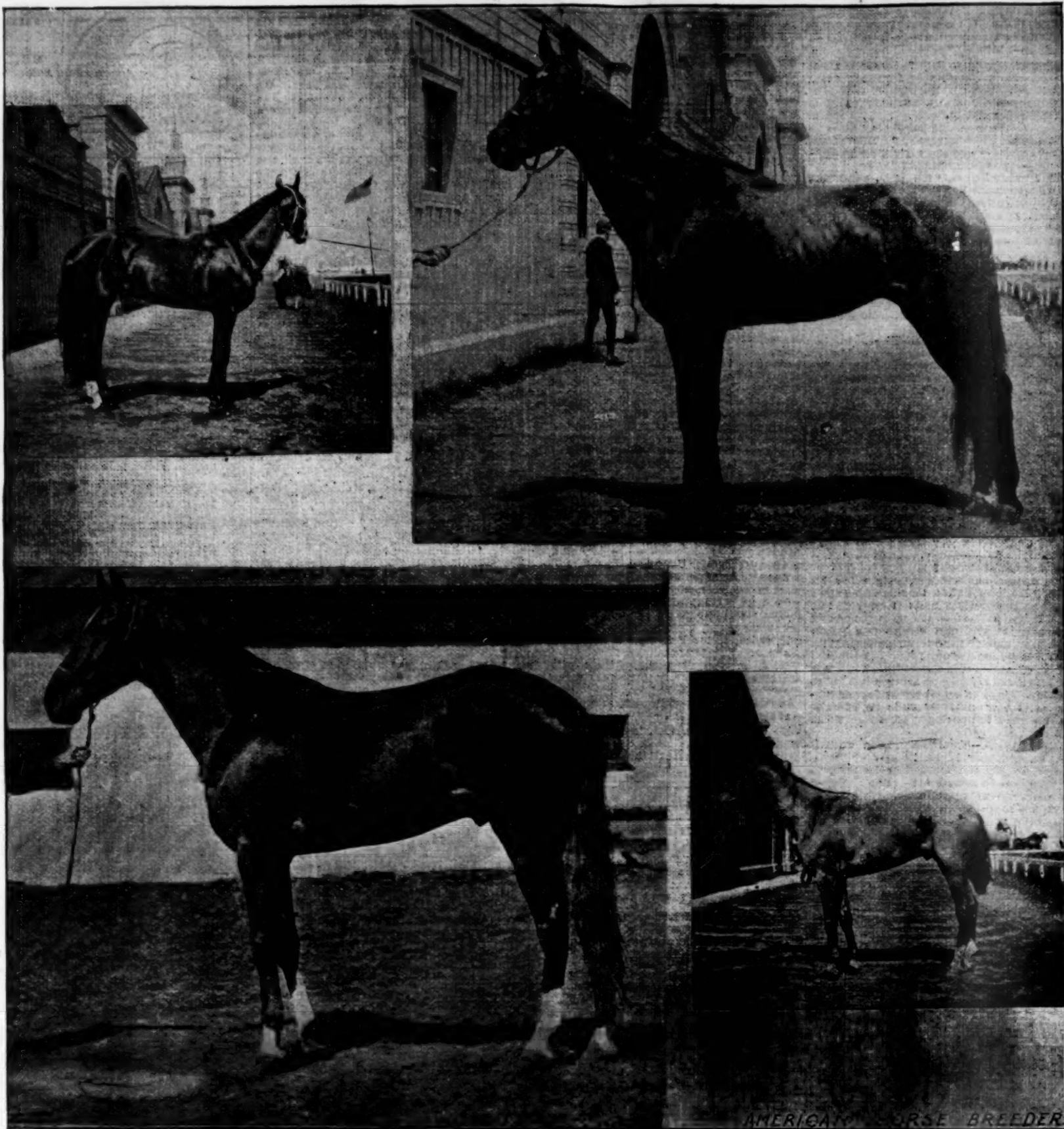
I want to say right here that several times during that day the thought came to me that I should never see my New Hampshire home again. Such a break-neck pace, across ground that would have been hard to walk over, is seldom ridden.

"He's tired, boys!" yelled Rob, and soon we came in sight of as fine a specimen of a panther as I have ever seen in a cage. In the mid branches of a tall pine tree he was restlessly moving to and fro, lashing his tail, snarling and showing a row of fangs that made me keep at a respectful distance. Rob and Alf both fired, and the report sounded like one shot. Down came "Mister Panther" full of fire, among the dogs, which flew at him fiercely. The panther grabbed old Crowder with both paws, behind the ears, and there would have been one less hound in our pack if the dogs had not caught the panther from behind and straightened him out. At this moment Rob did something that would startle a tenderfoot. He ran up, kicked the panther's paws loose from the dog's head, and blew the animal's brains out with a single shot. Then we all "hoorayed" and started to skin our prize.

Ere we had begun, away ran the hounds, and by their baying we knew that we had started two panthers instead of one. Again we were off, leaving our trophy until later in the day. Owing to the direction the dogs had taken, and there being only one way to get on to the top of the mountain on account of bluffs, Rob followed the dogs, while Alf, Walt and myself went above, for fear the panther would scale the cliffs. We rode as far as our horses could carry us, then let the animals, which would occasionally start a rock that would roll a long distance down the mountain.

Just as the summit was reached a rifle report broke upon our ears, followed by a prolonged "war whoop." We knew it was too late to be in at the second "killing," but were happy in the thought that another prize could be carried home. Leading the horses up to where we were was hard and tedious, but getting them down was more difficult. My horse slid on a rolling stone, and I saved my mount and myself by dodging behind a tree and holding the horse with the bridle reins till he regained his feet, though he turned and over end. My arm felt as if it was lengthened by a foot.

We finally were greeted by Rob, who said, "My! but he sure looked ugly and grinned when I walked up to shoot." That Mexico of yours, Alf, is the only light-colored dog I ever saw. The second shot cornered that panther all alone and held him right there on the bluff till I got to him."



KENDALL, 2:18 1-4.  
HANS MCGREGOR, 2:17 1-4.

OTIS BARON (p), 2:17 1-4.  
MOTH MILLER (p), (4), 2:10 3-4.

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We had hardly quit slapping each other on the back and exchanging congratulations, when, to our surprise, Brandy "loomed up" below us in the canon, and again pack and all were in hot chase. Here is where luck was with me and my pony that day. Had Dame Fortune not smiled upon me, I never could have gotten over such ground, ahead of my companions, in safety; but I was spurred on with a desperation, aroused by not getting a shot and two panthers already dead. The "run" was short, and there, 60 feet from the ground, rested a she panther, the mother of old Brandy—who is to have a brave collar, with his name and that date upon it.

As the rest arrived I fired and happened to hit true to the mark. The animal sprang several feet into the air, falling among the dogs. The "whole business" just rolled down the mountain, and such a mixed-up mess I never saw, even in a football scrimmage. Finally, the panther beat off the dogs, sprang part way up a tree, and fell back dead. This was my first panther, and it was impossible to describe, with a limited vocabulary, the mixture of pride and admiration I had for myself and the beast.

The panther's first fall broke his hip and crippled the dog Crowder so badly that he is at this time in a critical condition. These skins have all been shipped North, and many Monitor readers have seen them. They measured seven feet five inches, seven feet six inches, and the female eight feet seven inches from tip of nose to end of tail. The paws were four inches across. Any of these could kill a two-year-old heifer and drag the carcass to the top of the mountain. We had broken the record of these parts for a one-day hunt, and all acted like schoolboys.

After we had given a partial vent to our feelings we returned, skinned our trophies and made for camp. A more all-round tired crowd never ate bacon. The run was about nine miles in length, and such a pace and country takes the "starch" out of men, horses and dogs. On our way home next day the mules got out of the track on the side of a gully, and their packs slipped and turned. For pitching, knocking, kicking and running, "Hildy" and "Buck" then beat the record. They never stopped till our bedding, skillets, tin cups, plates, coffee pot, etc., were scattered over the whole canon.

In heading them from getting clear of Alf's horse ran away, Walt's saddle jumped and my pony fell down. Rob was left to do it all, and but for him some of us would have had to "toe and hoof" home. From each individual came his favorite expression, and they were varied and emphatic, to say the least. The ranch was reached without further mishap, and I hope to have more such sport before leaving for my Northern home.

"The Kid" Jeff Davis County, Tex., April 10, 1899.

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**Big-Gaited Colts—The Brush System.**

Practical horsemen differ considerably as to their preference of trotting gait in colts. Many like the short-striding, rapid-gaited ones best. Some very successful horsemen, however, choose the strid, big-gaited ones when selecting a prospective stake winner. While visiting Highland Farm some eight years ago this spring, and watching the youngsters grow their gait in the kindergarten, we noticed one in particular, that had a big striding gait and long stride. He was by Alapeters (2:23), and his dam was Serene, by Nutwood (2:18).

Some of those present remarked that the colt was too big gaited to ever become a fast trotter. Trainer Horace Brown, who was present, expressed a different opinion. He asserted that a trotter to take a fast record must cover considerable ground at every stride. Unless able to do so, no matter how rapid their action, they never develop into record breakers. The colt in question was Leonidas, which took a record of 2:17 1/2 a few years ago, and if we remember correctly, it was done with but comparatively little training.

"Farro" in a recent number of the Horse Review quotes from excellent authority both on this subject of gait and the Pale Alto system of making speed by short brushes as follows:

Joe Thayer of Lexington, Ky., is the only trainer in the world who has taught three two-year-old colts to trot in 2:15. The three were Rex American, Lovable and Boreal. Mr. Thayer drove them all public miles in 2:15 and a fraction, and sold them for large prices. Thayer knows every colt that is trained in the blue grass belt, and when he sees one he likes he buys him and gives him an education. He has had marvellous success in selecting green colts to train, and besides those named he has probably picked out and developed more good green ones than any other trainer in America.

In talking with Mr. Thayer about his methods of selecting and training colts the other day, he said to me: "I like big-gaited colts for colt trotters, and I never select a trappy-gaited colt. Lots of trainers like that sort, but I do not. I even like one to dwell a little in his gait when taking his first lesson. It takes quite a little work to teach one of that sort to pick up his feet right, but when one of them does learn to pick up his feet with a round, snappy stroke, he has stride enough to go fast. Most of the good colts I have handled were open-gaited colts on the start, and afterwards learned to go with their feet lined up."

"I do not believe in the brush system of training colts; that is, I do not believe in brushing colts short distances, and then turning them around and brushing them back again, or in pulling them up after every burst of speed. I think that system makes quitters and bad-gaited horses. I can't keep a colt good gaited and train him that way. All my good ones were trained on the mile upon mile system."

"A great many colts, and, in fact, a majority of the best of them, have no established gait when they are learning to trot. They will shift their feet around and strut, or sprawl, or shorten up their gait every once in a while, and while I drive my colts I seldom ask them to stop fast except when they strike a gait that suits me, and that is generally only a short distance in each mile."

"Most colts change their way of going quite a little as they learn to go fast."

Trevillion (2:04) never had an established way of going until he was five years old. He could trot very fast as a two and three year old, but he had two or three ways of doing it, and would never settle into a regular stride and keep it up all the way. I had to keep at him all the while to keep him going. I used to talk to him and shift the bit through his mouth, and often kept him going by punching him on the root of his tail with my fist.

"I believe in too weights and even long toes in some cases. I use too weights on many colts that trot square and fast naturally without shoes. I trained Rex American on the start without too weights, and he was as pretty a trotter as you ever saw, but I tried a three-ounce weight on him one day, and it improved his speed several seconds, and he always wore them afterwards."

"Don't most all trotting colts scalp and speedy out more or less when they are learning to trot?" I asked.

"Yes," replied Mr. Thayer, "many of the best ones I ever handled did. But I could most always correct the fault by shoeing, and I think I use scalp and speedy boots less than the average trainer. In shoeing a colt that scalps or speedy out, I am always careful to dress the outside edge of his front shoes off smooth and round, from the centre of the toe to the heel. The average smith will leave the edge of a horse's shoe sharp unless you tell him to smooth them up, and in giving my instructions to a smith I always make it a point to caution the smith against doing so."

"I have stopped many colts from scalping with light too weights, and I have had excellent success with square-toed shoes. I have used square-toed shoes on trotters that were inclined to hit themselves behind for many years on a rule I only use a square-toed shoe in front, but I have also shod a number of hard-hitting colts that way be fitted with excellent results. A square toe behind will most always improve the gait of a colt that carries his hind feet too far behind."

"When I get hold of a right good colt, I do not like to keep him in training over one track too long. A colt that has a change of tracks every little while has a big advantage over one that does not. When they are trained on one track until they learn to know every post on each side of it, their work is bound to become more or less monotonous, and they do not learn as fast as they should."

"I have two or three good colts in my training this year—among them Simrock, a three year old entered in the Horse Review Futurity, that is to be trotted at Dubuque, and The Tramp, a two year old, by Jay Bird, that is eligible to the Kentucky Futurity, and, by the way, he is the best colt I ever owned, and I refused \$3000 for him the other day. Now I am not going to campaign any aged horses this year, but I think too much of these colts to keep them in training over the Lexington track until the week of their races, so I have planned to ship them out West and train them a short time over three or four of the best tracks in the country."

Ben Kenney is another successful Kentucky trainer who has very little use for the brush system of training trotters. He does not live in Kentucky now, but there is where he learned his trade. Just at present Kenney is driving for Harry Schmhubach of Wheeling, W. Va. He was up to the Splin-No. gas sale last week to pick up a good horse or two for his employer, and I succeeded in inducing him to divulge a few secrets about training colts that might interest my readers.

It was Ben Kenney that gave Nancy Hanks her early education, and since her day he has developed hundreds of good trotters and pacers, including a majority of the crack trotters that have been bred at Marcus Daly's farm, and, in fact, Mr. Kenney is generally considered the equal of any trainer in America. Kenney drives his colts miles up at two-thirds speed, and steps them as fast as they will go the last end of the route, as a general thing, although he always teaches them to speed through any quarter of the mile they are asked to.

"The greatest colts I have developed," said Kenney, "were all double-gaited on the start, and I sometimes think that double-gaited colts are the only ones worth handling. I have often trained two brothers or sisters when one would be double-gaited at the other would not, and in every such instance the double-gaited one would turn out to be much the best horse. Hanks could pace faster than she could trot, and when I was breaking her I once let her pace a quarter in 35 seconds, just to see how much natural speed she had at that gait. I trained a colt by Robert McGregor, out of the dam of Hanks, that was not double-gaited, and I could not teach it to trot fast enough to be called a trotter."

"You know John Nolan, as a colt, could pace faster than he could trot. Well, I trained his brother, a year older, who was a better individual than Nolan, but not double-gaited, and he could not trot fast enough to get to the races. I like a colt that needs a little weight to square him away on the start. What do I do with colts that speedy-out and scalp? Well, I put too weights on them or square their toes in front, and then lower the inside of their hind feet. I think most any trotter that hits his hind pasterns will go better after his hind feet are lowered a little on the inside. I have fixed lots of them that way and rolled the inside of their hind shoes to boot. I had to shoe Limerick and several other Prodigals that way, and I never used a side strap or a galling pole on a trotter in a race in my life."

"By lowering one foot on the inside and the other on the outside I have squared up several horses that could not trot without galloping before I fixed them. Last year a friend of mine got into trouble with one of the fastest trotters on the turf. The horse got to carrying his head to the left, and his near hind foot too far in under his body, and in consequence he had to wear a galling pole on his right side to keep himself straight when he raced. I told his driver that I thought I could straighten the horse up if he would let me shoe him, and he gave me permission to try. I took him to the shop and had the shoe take his left hind foot down a quarter of an inch on the inside and his right hind foot down almost as much on the outside. It balanced him out at once, just as I thought it would, and he never wore a pole after wards."

In speaking of the peculiarities of the colt Limerick, Mr. Kenney told me that he cured him of the annoying habit of throwing his nose out and shaking his head by simply trimming all the long hairs out of his nostrils. The wind blew the hairs back in his nose, and tickled him so that he could not keep his head still. Kenney said that he believed that long hairs in the nose was just what caused so many horses to shake their heads when trotting against the wind. It is a new one on me, but it looks sensible, and is worth remembering."

It would seem from the above that although trainer Kenney is not in favor of the brush system for developing speed, he practices it in a modified form. Although he works the full mile, he brushes the candidate for turf honors a short distance in some quarter of it. Mr. Marvin, who has had remarkable success in developing the speed of youngsters, advises brushing them about an eighth of a mile at top speed, then pulling them up,

turning them around and walking them back beyond the starting point, and repeating the lesson, using care not to give the youngster too much work. With such capable trainers as Marvin, Thayer and Kenney, any system which suits them best is sure to produce the desired results.

From the Turf, Field and Farm.  
**The Stallion on the Road.**

There was a case in court this week as to the safety of a stallion on the road. Judge H. M. Whitehead testified that in his judgment a stallion is more fearless than a gelding or a mare, and therefore more reliable in an emergency. Things that frighten other horses do not disturb him. Judge Whitehead had the good fortune to own a perfect entire road horse in The King, and this strengthened his confidence in stallions. The King was a wonderfully handsome horse in his prime, and very few horses could outtroit him on the road, where his manners were always excellent.

Starlie, who was the first horse to trot the old Fleetwood track in 2:19, was another admirable type of the entire roadster, and Mr. Robert Bonner took great pleasure in driving him on the road. Marie Cobb, who trotted to a stallion record of 2:13 1/2 in 1884, was driven in single and double harness on the road, where he was perfectly safe. The gray stallion Independence was the double-harness mate of Cleary, and we doubt if Mr. William Rockefeller ever had a better road team. The last time we saw Independence was on a country road in Connecticut, and a gelding could not have been more subdued in manner. The single-harness record of Independence is 2:21 1/2 and the double-harness record 2:10 1/2.

King Rene Jr. (2:17) is one of the best roadsters alive, and is just as safe as a mare or gelding. Mr. A. A. Bonner was strapped up in this handsome stallion. Nelson (2:19) is a well-mannered horse on the road, and so is Patronage, sire of the queen of the trotting turf, Alta (2:02). Two years ago we remember riding behind him in the crowded streets of Boston, and nothing upset his equilibrium. Bingen (2:02) recently won over mares and stallions in a roadster class at Boston, and he is just as reliable on the road as the farmer's old trusty mare.

Mr. E. H. Harriman takes great pleasure in driving Stamboul (2:07 1/2) on the road, and considers him perfectly safe. Harrington, sire of the great pacer Robert J. (2:01 1/2), spent the latter part of his active life on the road, and could be tied to a post anywhere in the city. Treatment has much to do with the disposition of a horse,—stallion, mare or gelding. Dexter, the ex-king of the turf and the most famous gelding that ever lived, was far more difficult to control in harness than his brother, Dictator, sire of Jay-Ey-Sao. Enamulation did not soften to any great extent his fiery temper.

When Aberdeen was owned by Captain Rynders he was a savage, simply because he was closely confined and harshly treated. After his purchase by General Withers he was given the freedom of a ten-acre field and managed with gentle hands, and his manner changed. He became as docile as a lamb.

Before condemning a stallion for road purposes, inquire into his mental characteristics and his treatment. If he is an intelligent horse and is treated right he will quickly submit to control. There are unmanageable mares and geldings as well as unsafe stallions. The successful handler of horses always keeps the old adage in mind, as the twig is bent the tree is inclined.

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